

Minutes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID

May 14, 2009

Attendance: HED Committee Members Present: Hilary Royce, Thaddeus Smith, Dan Chismire, Carol Massie, Stephanie Houfek. Not Present: John Tronson, Shawn Ingram. SVBID Committee Members Present: Nick Spampanato, Chairperson; Brian Folb, Fred Rosenthal, Travis Serpa, Fabio Conti. Not Present: Richard Falzone. Liaisons: Senior Lead Officer Danny Pesquiera, Steve Seyler, Mike Harkins and Joe Salazar, Andrews International; Larry Webster and Will Rivera, LA City Attorney's Office; Lt. Suzan Young, Sgt. Craig Walker, Deputy Jerry Hankerson, LA County Sheriff; Helen Leung, CD-13. Guests: Inspector Travens, Captain Ayala, Los Angeles Fire Department. Staff: Kerry Morrison, Hollywood Property Owners Alliance.

- I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Nick Spampanato at 10:10 A.M.
- II. Public Comment: None.
- III. Special Guest: Los Angeles Fire Department - Inspector Gerald Travens and Captain Philip Ayala

Inspector Travens and Captain Ayala briefed the committee on the methods by which the fire department calculates occupancy loads for the purposes of establishing fire permits. There has been some confusion in Hollywood about the distinction between occupancy loads as determined by Building & Safety or the City Planning Department. Ultimately, the fire department determination takes precedence, because BoS determinations are often made based upon total square footage, without taking into consideration space planning and furniture.

Admittedly, when there is a changeover in a club, by virtue of new owners and/or remodeling, the new occupancy load may be different from original CUP documents. The new fire permit load trumps any old documentation.

Inspector Travens impressed upon the committee the importance of business owners treating their venue like a house – and ensuring that it is not overcrowded before the fire inspector shows up.

IV. Reports

A. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler distributed a report covering the period 4-6-09 through 5-3-09. He highlighted some notable outreach efforts and a particular instance where a woman who had been a prior victim of a rape walked into the security office because she had seen the perpetrator in the BID. With the help of BID Security officers, they followed him, and ultimately LAPD apprehended and arrested him.

B. Report from LAPD: SLO Pesqueira reported on the success in controlling the 11,000+ crowd for the Depeche Mode concert with only 42 police officers. The Hollywood Division went through their division inspection last Thursday, May 7 and Chief Bratton was very impressed. Pesqueira indicated that there will be an increase in deployment at Hollywood Division, and there will be a press conference to announce this on May 26, 2009. Finally, he reported that with the citywide gun buy-back program, 97 guns were returned in Hollywood, in exchange for gift cards.

C. Report from City Attorney: Will Rivera reported that at the upcoming Homeless Connect Day, the City Attorney's office will be assisting with a project whereby people can reduce or eliminate outstanding warrants by agreeing to some community service. This is part of the HALO program (Homeless Alternatives to Living on the Street).

He also reported on efforts to isolate the root cause of the Gordon Street gang (located just south of the boundary of the SVBID), and indicated that with proactive efforts by the LAPD and the city attorney, working with the schools, truancy officers and the families, they may actually be able to eradicate this gang.

Finally, he indicated that a determination had been made that with respect to alcohol matters in the clubs and restaurants, ABC shall have sole discretion (not LAPD). The city should not be enforcing policies that ABC has jurisdiction over (e.g., bottle service, happy hour, etc).

After a brief discussion about the aggressive attempts by medical marijuana purveyors to seek commercial lease space in both BIDs, Rivera agreed to work with Morrison to bring in a speaker on this subject at the next meeting.

D. Report from LA County Sheriff: Lt. Suzan Young reported that the fare evasion rate ranges between 1.8 percent to 10 percent, depending upon the time of day and the station. With respect to a question asked about the late night experiment last holiday season, she indicated that the contract did not include money set aside for increased security, and there likely was a sense that there was less of a law enforcement presence during that time.

V. New Business

A. Consumption Hour: Morrison distributed documents prepared by the Hollywood Hospitality Association, who is advocating for an increase in the consumption hour to 4 a.m. The committee generally discussed this, and raised concerns about a situation whereby Hollywood would become a magnet for increased drinking, especially if other parts of the city or region ended consumption at 2 a.m. There was also concern expressed about impact on noise, residents and law enforcement's ability to patrol until 5 a.m. or so.

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B. Homeless Connect Day: cards were distributed announcing the need for volunteers for Homeless Connect Day, which will be held at the Music Box on June 25, 2009

VI. Next Meeting: The next meeting will take place on Thursday, June 11, 2009 at 10 a.m. in Suite 200 of the Taft Building (1680 Vine St., Hollywood, CA. 90028).

VII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 p.m.